take up this issue at SAARC, NAM and. United Nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM); (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government do not have any such proposal under consideration at present.

Bank population ratio in Assam .

160. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRA-VARTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present all India average of banks per population;

(b) what is the present bank population ratio in Assam;

(c) whether it is fact that Assam is an under-banked State with only 981 bank branches as in March 1988;

(d) whether there is any proposal for improving the situation; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO):
(a) to (e) The average population per bank office fAPPBO) as al Ihe end of December, 1987 was 12.000 for the country as a whole and 20.000 for Assam State as a whole. it would be seen that APPBO in Assam is higher than the All India ratic. As at the end of December, 198" there we 1013 bank branches functioning in Assam. The Reserve Bank of India has allotted 233 eligible centres to commercial banks, including Regional Rural Banks, for opening their branches at rural and semi-urban centres in Assam under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985—90. In addition 8 urban centres have also been allotted to the banks for opening their branches under the current Branch Licensing Policy.

Measures to Control Floods in Assam

161. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRA-VARTY; Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received a proposal from the Assam Government urging upon the Ministry to identify short and medium term measures within Assam itself for controlling the re-curring floods of the turbulent Brahmaputra since there is a fair degree of uncertainties in the inter-State long term projects contemplated in the Master Plan prepared by the Brahmaputra Board; and

(b) if so, what action Government have takerj thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Normally, flood management schemes are formulated and executed by the State Government fixing *inter se* priorities within the budget allocations. But considering the magnitude of the problem of floods in Assam, the Central Government has been providing central loan assistance to the Government of Assam since 1974-75 for flood management works. Out of the provision of Rs. 149.93 crores in the Seventh Plan in the Central Sector, Rs. 70 crores has been allocated for such assistance to Assam. During the period 1985-86 to 1987-SR. an amount of Rs. 49 50 crores has already been released and a provision of Rs. 21 crores has been proposed for 1988-89. The schemes qualifying for such assistance are identified by a Steering Committee in which the Secretary, Flood Control Deptt.> Government of Assam is also a member. It is for the Government of Assam to sor! out the priorities with the Steering Committee for execution of short term measures of flood management within the resources available.

News-item captioned Ghiesing threatens Final War"

162. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRA-VARTY: Wil! the Minister of HOME AFFAIRs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned

"Ghiesing threatens final war' which appeared in the 'Hindu' of the 6th April, 1988 wherein it has been stated that Mr. Ghiesing would launch final war soon to achieve Gorkhaland and that he would hold talks only with the Prime Minister and not with the Union Home Minister or West Bengal's Chief Minister; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government have firmly rejected the proposal for creating Gorkhaland as a separate State.

Pension to widows and old people affected by November, 1984 riots

163. SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is *a* faci that widows and old people affected by November, 19S4 riots were promised a monthly pension of Rs. 400/- p.m. on 15th August, 1987;

(b) if so, how many of them have since been granted such pension and how many cases are still under consideration:

(c) whether it is also a fact that riot affected families who are at presen' living in slums near Tilak Vihar Widows' Colony were promised land and financial assistance on the 15th August, 19S7 to be given by the end of October, 1987; if so, what is the progress made in this regaid and the number of families to be benefited thereby; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that riot affected victims who suffered loss of business property but had no insurance were promised ex-gratia grant up to Rs. 50,000 or fifty per cent of the loss, whichever is less; if so, how many cases have been finalised how many still remain to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Monthly *ad hoc* relief was sanctioned to November, 1984 riot affected old age persons and unemployed widows.

(b) *Ad hoc* relief has been granted in 220 cases. Action has been initiated by the Delhi Administration in 398 more cases.

(c) According to the Delhi Administration, it has been decided to shift the squatters at Tilak Vihar on as in where is basis and to give a plot measuring 26 sq. mts.

(d) Yes, Sir. 35 cnses have been fina lised and action on 5338 cases has been started by the Delhi Administration

सामाजिक वानिकी कार्यक्रम के अधीन महिला कामगारों को रोजगार

164. **श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया** : क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सामाजिक वानिकी कार्यक्रम के अधीन महिला कामगारों को रोजगार प्रदान करने की कोई स्कीम है ;

(ख) क्या राजस्थान को भी उक्त योजना में सम्मिलित किया गया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो राजस्थान के प्रत्येक जिले में इस स्कीम के अधीन हुई प्रगति का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जैड० आर० अंसारी) : (क) और (ख) ग्राम विकास विभाग की रोजगार सृजन करने की परियोजना सहित सामाजिक वानिकी कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत सभी परियोजनाएं महिला कामगारों को रोजगार देती है । इसके अतिरिक्त वृक्ष पट्टा परियोजना और विकेन्द्रित जन पौधशाला परियोजना के अंतर्गत महिलाओं को वरीयता देने के लिए राज्यों को सलाह